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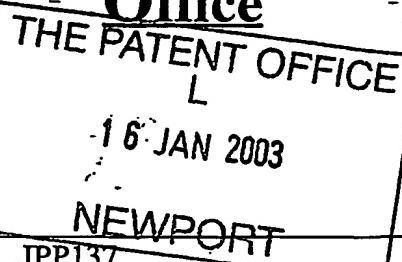
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Office16 JAN 03 E777490-1 D02806
P01/7700 0.00-0300968.5**Request for grant of a patent**

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The Patent Office

Cardiff Road
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1. Your reference

JPP137

0300968.5

2. Patent application number

(The Patent Office will fill in this part)

3. Full name, address and postcode of the or of each applicant (*underline all surnames*)

Altro Limited
Works Road
Letchworth
Hertfordshire
SG6 1NW

Patents ADP number (*if you know it*)8544025001
The United Kingdom

If the applicant is a corporate body, give the country/state of its incorporation

4. Title of the invention

Floor Covering Sealant Strip

5. Name of your agent (*if you have one*)

Barker Brettell

"Address for service" in the United Kingdom to which all correspondence should be sent (*including the postcode*)

10-12 Priests Bridge
LONDON
SW15 5JE

Patents ADP number (*if you know it*)

7442494003 ✓

6. If you are declaring priority from one or more earlier patent applications, give the country and the date of filing of the or of each of these earlier applications and (*if you know it*) the or each application number

Country

Priority application number
(*if you know it*)Date of Filing
(day/month/year)

7. If this application is divided or otherwise derived from an earlier UK application, give the number and the filing date of the earlier application

Number of earlier application

Date of filing
(day/month/year)8. Is a statement of inventorship and of right to grant of a patent required in support of this request (*Answer 'Yes' if:*

Yes

- a) any applicant named in part 3 is not an inventor, or
 - b) there is an inventor who is not named as an applicant, or
 - c) any named applicant is a corporate body.
- See note (d))*

Patents Form 1/77

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Description 6

Claim(s)

DM

Abstract

Drawing(s) 3 *+ 2*

10. If you are also filing any of the following, state how many against each item.

Priority documents

Translations of priority documents

Statement of inventorship and right to grant of a patent (*Patents Form 7/77*)

Request for preliminary examination
(*Patents Form 9/77*)

Request for substantive examination
(*Patents Form 10/77*)

Any other documents
(please specify)

I/We request the grant of a patent on the basis of this application.

11.

Signature

Barker Brettell

Date

15/1/03

12. Name and daytime telephone number of person to contact in the United Kingdom

James P. Peel

Tel: 020 8392 2234

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FLOOR COVERING SEALANT STRIP

The present invention relates to means for sealing a join between edges of self-coving floor covering.

5

There are several known methods of laying a synthetic floor covering. The choice of method depends on the conditions to which the floor covering will be exposed during use. In areas where the floor covering would not be exposed to excessive spillages, it is conventional to straight 10 lay the floor covering such that it is fitted flush to the perimeter walls/skirtions. Coving is then fitted to seal the junction between the wall and floor. Even if the perimeter of the floor covering laid in this manner is sealed before the coving is fitted, such an arrangement is not generally acceptable in areas that are subjected to excessive spillages of 15 water. In these situations, it is conventional to arrange the edges of the floor covering to run up the wall to a suitable height. This is known as self-coving. A cove former is generally first fitted to the wall to support the flooring material. The known method of laying floor covering in this manner is complicated because at corners in the room where the floor 20 covering is being laid, it is necessary to hot-weld the joint between the edges of the floor covering to provide a water-tight seal.

Forming a neat and effective hot-weld joint requires skill and experience. Generally the edges of the floor covering to be welded first need to be 25 grooved to receive the welding material. Then the welding material must be applied to the join using a welding gun. Once the weld is cool, the surplus welding material should be removed and then finally the weld should be chamfered with a sharp blade to give a neat finish. The problem with this procedure is that a water-tight seal is not guaranteed 30 every time.

It is an aim of the present invention to ameliorate this problem.

According to the invention there is provided a sealant kit for sealing a join between edges of a self-coving floor covering laid on a floor and a wall, which kit includes at least one backing member and at least one front member, the backing member being shaped to have a wall engaging portion, a floor engaging portion and a portion to connect the wall engaging portion to the floor engaging portion and the front member being shaped correspondingly.

10

The front member preferably has at least one connecting formation which allows the front member to be connected to the backing member. The backing member preferably has at least one corresponding formation to enable the connection to be made. The formation on the front member is preferably a projecting formation such as a spike which is more preferably barbed such that once it is inserted into a corresponding formation on the backing member, it is difficult to withdraw. The corresponding formation on the backing member is preferably a receiving formation; more preferably the backing member forms at least one corresponding hole suitable to receive a projecting formation from a front member.

25 The connecting formation(s) and corresponding formation(s) are preferably of suitable dimensions and/or are arranged such that the gap which is formed between the backing member and the front member is sufficiently wide to be able to receive the floor covering.

30 The connecting formation(s) and corresponding formation(s) are preferably provided on the portions of the front and backing member which connect the wall engaging portions to the floor engaging portions. This is because there is generally space between the backing member and

the floor or wall to accommodate any part of the connecting formation(s) which protrude beyond the backing member.

Use of the sealant kit according to the invention simplifies the sealing of
5 a joint between edges of floor covering as it removes the need to use hot-welding. Also it guarantees a water-tight seal. It has the advantage of allowing floor covering which cannot be hot-welded to be used in self-coving applications. The use of the kit allows the edges of the floor covering to be sealed by mastic as the front and backing members
10 reinforce the joint.

The sealant kit is preferably for sealing a join between edges of floor covering at a corner of an area in which the floor covering is to be laid. The backing member is preferably shaped to fit the corner.

15 The backing member is preferably formed from a rigid plastics material. The front member is preferably formed from a flexible plastics material. More preferably the front member is formed from a plastics material which has been coloured to match the colour of the floor covering.

20 The front member is preferably shaped to have a J-shaped profile. The backing member is preferably lined with adhesive layers, more preferably on both its front and back sides. The adhesive layers are protected before use by removable liners. The presence of such adhesive layers speeds up
25 the sealing of a join between edges of a floor covering with the sealant kit because they remove the need to apply adhesive to the backing member or to the floor covering before sealing the edges of the floor covering.

30 The invention will now be described by way of example with reference to the following drawings:

Figure 1 shows a perspective view of a front member of a sealant kit according to the invention;

5 Figure 2 shows a horizontal cross-section of a first front member of a sealant kit according to the invention for sealing a floor covering to be laid in an area having an external corner;

10 Figure 3 shows a horizontal cross-section of a second front member of a sealant kit according to the invention for sealing a floor covering to be laid in an area having an internal corner;

Figure 4 shows a vertical cross-section of a front member of a sealant kit according to the invention having projecting formations;

15 Figure 5 shows a projecting formation in detail;

20 Figure 6 shows a first backing member of a sealant kit according to the invention for sealing a floor covering to be laid in an area having an external corner; and

25 Figure 7 shows a second backing member of a sealant kit according to the invention for sealing a floor covering to be laid in an area having an internal corner.

The front member 10 shown in Figures 1 to 4 has a J-shaped profile similar to the contours of a coving. In other words it has a straight wall-engaging portion 15 similar to the upper part of a coving, a curved connecting portion 20 similar to the lower part of a coving for where a wall meets a floor and a straight floor-engaging portion 25.

- Projecting formations 30 are provided on connecting portion 20 which are shown in more detail in Figure 5. The projecting formations 30 are arranged to connect the front member 10 to a backing member. They have an elongated body with a cone-shaped tip 35. The diameter of the base of the tip 35 is greater than that of the body such that the projecting formations has a barb. The projecting formation also has a shoulder 40 wherein there is sufficient distance between the top of the shoulder 40 and the base of the tip 35 to accommodate the thickness of a backing member.
- 5 base of the tip 35 is greater than that of the body such that the projecting formations has a barb. The projecting formation also has a shoulder 40 wherein there is sufficient distance between the top of the shoulder 40 and the base of the tip 35 to accommodate the thickness of a backing member.
- 10 The backing member 50,80 is made from substantially rigid plastics material and is wider than the front member 10. Backing member 50 is arranged to fit an external corner whereas backing member 80 is arranged to fit an internal corner. Each backing member has two parts 55,90 and 60,85 which define a right angle such that the backing member can lie
- 15 flush with the walls at the corner of a room. In a similar manner to the front member 10, the backing member 50,80 has a J-shaped profile. The backing member defines a pair of holes 70 which are arranged to receive the projecting formations 30 of the front member. The diameter of the holes 70 is less than the diameter of the base of the cone-shaped tips 35 of
- 20 the projecting formations 30.

The front side of the backing member 50,80 is provided with adhesive layers 95 which are protected by removable liners 100 to aid adhesion of a floor covering to the backing member. Further adhesive layers and

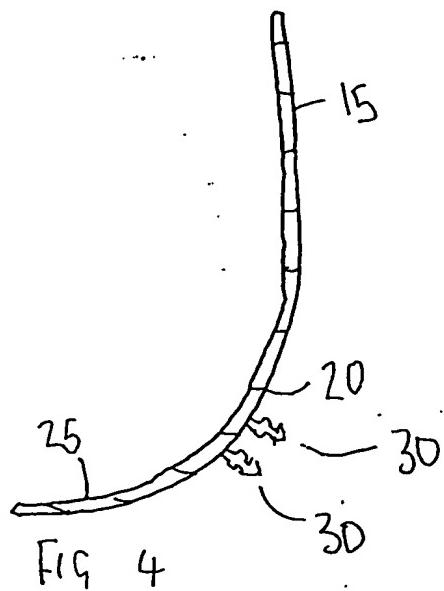
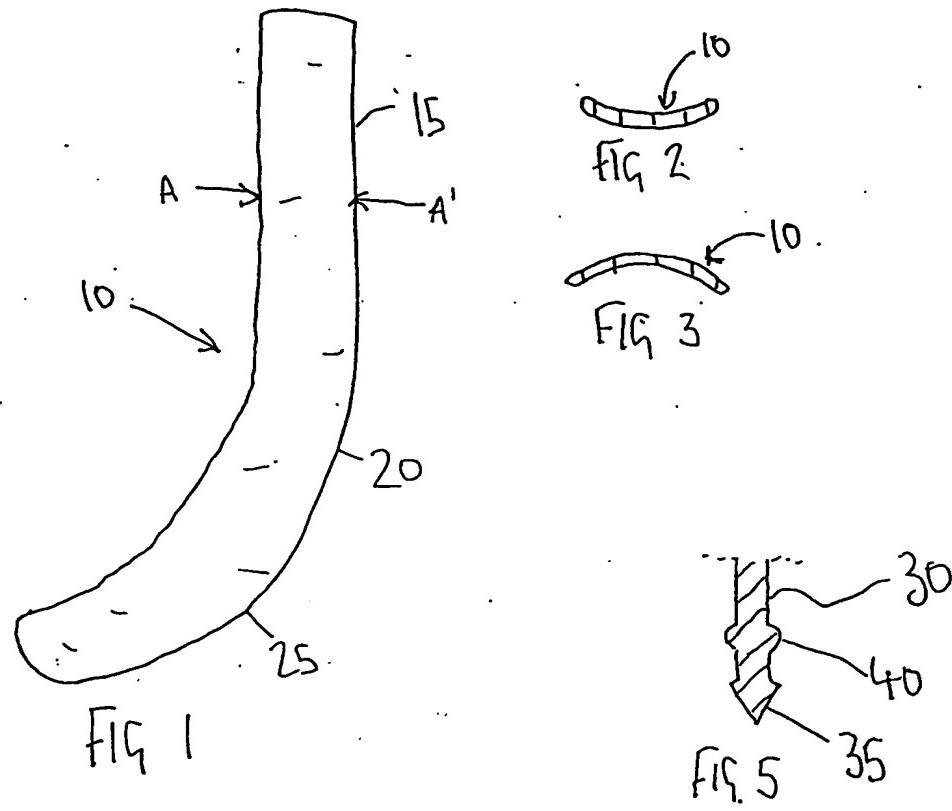
25 removable liners are provided on the reverse side of the backing member 50,80 for adhering the backing member to a wall.

In use, where self-coving floor covering is to be fitted to a corner, a suitable backing member 50,80 is chosen depending on whether the

30 corner is external 50 or internal 80. The floor covering must first be cut to provide edges to be sealed at the corner. The backing member 50,80 is

prepared for use by removing the liners from the adhesive on its reverse side and adhered to the corner. The liners 100 on the front side of the backing member are then removed such that the floor covering can be laid to the corner. The edges of the floor covering are then sealed with mastic. A further layer of mastic is applied to the rear of the front member 10 which is then applied to the corner such that the projecting formations 30 engage the holes 70 on the backing member 50,80.

It will be understood that variants of the embodiment shown can be made without affecting the scope of the invention by forming the front member from a plastics material of a colour which matches the colour of the floor covering with which the sealant kit is to be used to provide a more attractive finished flooring; and the projecting formations 30 may not have the shoulders 40.



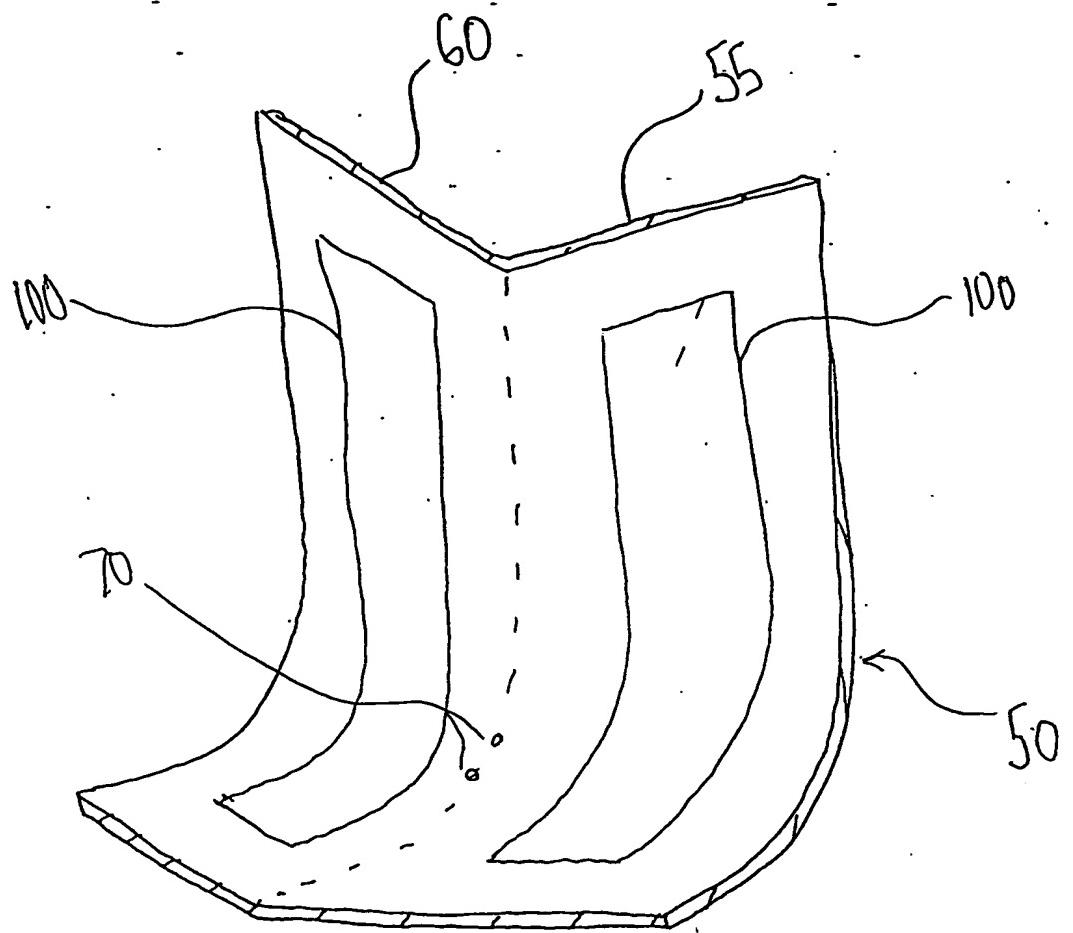


FIG 6

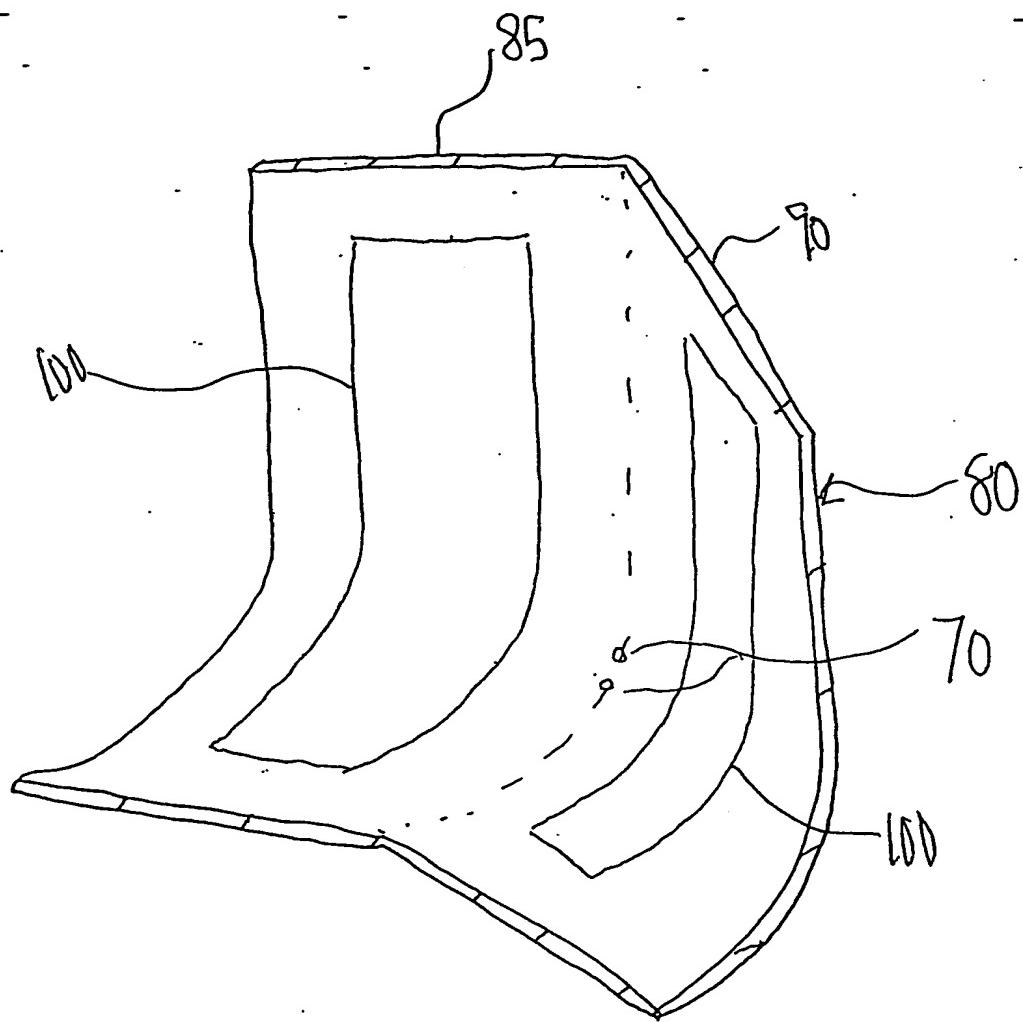
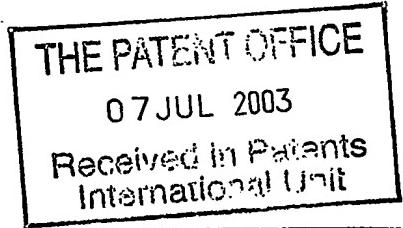


FIG. 7



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